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a lug adjuster on one of the base blocks, mounting one of the aligning lugs and configured to selectively shift the one aligning lug laterally with respect to the cutting guide.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are canceled herein without prejudice, and new claims 19-27 are added. Examination of claims 19-27 is requested.

This Preliminary Amendment is included with a Request for Continued Examination following a telephone discussion with the Examiner in which it was pointed out that the Applicant's elongated cutting guide may be removed from the table by simply lifting it upwardly. It was indicated that the alignment lugs allow for this function and that none of the references cited earlier in prosecution showed or suggested this arrangement. The Examiner agreed that differences indeed existed and that he would favorably consider claims to that effect if presented in a continuing application.

The claims as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the Wiley reference, and any of the remaining references cited in prior prosecution. With particular reference to Wiley, it is pointed out that the cutting guide or fence is intended to remain in contact with the driving portions. This is clearly evidenced by the need for Wiley to shift the fence to a horizontal orientation at one end of the table to provide clearance if a large workpiece (such as plywood) is to be cut on the

tabletop. Applicant's alignment lugs, on the other hand, allow the cutting guide to be easily lifted upwardly from the table.

The new independent claim 19 is believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth above. The remaining dependent claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons set forth for allowance of claim 19, since such claims depend directly from independent claim 19.

An earnest attempt has been made to place this application in condition for allowance. Reconsider and allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions to expedite this application to allowance, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned for a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Inventor John P. Kennelly
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Examiner C. Dexter
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In the Claims

Claims 1-18 are canceled herein without prejudice, and new claims 19-22 have been added as follows wherein strike-outs indicate deleted language and underlining indicates added language:

19. (New) A fence for a cutting table, comprising:
a pair of elongated guide rails to be mounted to the cutting table;
endless chains, one on each guide rail,
a pair of sprockets rotatably mounted on each guide rail and with each pair of
sprockets mounting one of said endless chains;
each chain including sprocket tooth receiving spaces and a working flight
extending along the associated guide rail;
a shaft interconnecting one of the sprockets on one guide rail with another
one of the sprockets on the remaining guide rail;
an elongated cutting guide; and
aligning lugs releasably interconnecting the cutting guide and working flights
and oriented substantially normal to the working flights to transmit motion to the

cutting guide along the cutting guide rails responsive to movement of the chains along the working flights and to permit separation of the cutting guide from the chains by lifting the cutting guide in a direction substantially normal to the working flights.

20. (New) A fence for a cutting table as defined by claim 19, further comprising:

a locking mechanism operatively connected to the cutting guide and configured to secure the cutting guide in a selected position along the working flights.

21. (New) A fence for a cutting table as defined by claim 19, further comprising:

a lug adjustor operatively connected between the cutting guide and one of the aligning lugs, configured to adjustably position the one aligning lug laterally with respect to the cutting guide.

22. (New) A fence for a cutting table as defined by claim 19, wherein the shaft is comprised of:

an extendible drive shaft secured to the one sprocket and said another one of the sprockets.

23. (New) A fence for a cutting table as defined by claim 19, wherein the chains are roller chains; and

wherein the aligning lugs are mounted to the cutting guide to be releasably received between links of said roller chains.

24. (New) A fence for a cutting table as defined by claim 19, further comprising base blocks mounted at opposed ends of the cutting guide; and wherein the aligning lugs are mounted to the base blocks.

25. (New) A fence for a cutting table as defined by claim 19, further comprising base blocks mounted at opposed ends of the cutting guide; wherein each base block includes a chain receiving groove formed therein; and wherein the aligning lugs are mounted to the base blocks within the chain receiving grooves.

26. (New) A fence for a cutting table as defined by claim 19, further comprising: base blocks mounted at opposed ends of the cutting guide; each base block including a chain receiving groove formed therein; wherein the aligning lugs are situated within the chain receiving grooves; a lug adjustor on one of the base blocks, mounting one of the aligning lugs and configured to adjust the one aligning lug laterally with respect to the cutting guide.

27. (New) A fence for a cutting table as defined by claim 19, further comprising base blocks mounted at opposed ends of the cutting guide; and a lug adjuster on one of the base blocks, mounting one of the aligning lugs and configured to selectively shift the one aligning lug laterally with respect to the cutting guide.

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